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# Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SAB-01 SS-20 PM-07 L-03

H-03 NSC-07 PRS-01 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DODE-00 OMB-01 /075 R

DRAFTED BY ARA-LA/PAN: SMOREYBELL:GFH
APPROVED BY ARA -LA/PAN - S. MOREY BELL
---------- 071024
O P 121613Z MAR 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE
INFO GOVERNOR PANCANAL PRIORITY
USCINCSO PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 049151

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PN
SUBJ: GENERAL TORRIJOS' REQUEST TO THE SECRETARY FOR
CESSION OF COCO SOLO LANDS

1. THE SECRETARY SIGNED MARCH 7 THE FOLLOWING LETTER
TO TORRIJOS:

2. BEGIN QUOTE: DEAR GENERAL TORRIJOS: I WANT
TO SAY AGAIN HOW GREATLY I APPRECIATE THE KINDNESSES
AND COURTESIES, PERSONAL AS WELL AS OFFICIAL, WHICH
YOU AND ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT EXTENDED
TO ME AND MY COLLEAGUES DURING OUR VISIT TO PANAMA FEBRU-
ARY 7.

3. QUOTE: THAT DATE WILL BE RECORDED, I BELIEVE, AS
ONE ON WHICH OUR TWO COUNTRIES CHOSE TO THINK AND ACT
TOGETHER, RATHER THAN SEPARATELY, WITH RESPECT TO
THE PANAMA CANAL ENTERPRISE.

4. QUOTE: I PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER OF THE
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LAND AND WATERFRONT AREAS NEAR OLD FRANCE FIELD IN THE

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CANAL ZONE WHICH COULD BE USEFUL TO PANAMA IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CONTAINER PORT CLOSE TO THE COLON FREE ZONE. I HAVE DONE SO. THE CANDOR AND TRUST WHICH I SENSE HAVE DEVELOPED BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS

RECENTLY LEAD ME TO TELL YOU PLAINLY OF MY BELIEF THAT THE TIMES ARE NOT RIGHT FOR ACTION ON THIS PROPOSAL.

5. QUOTE: THE TRANSFER OF THE COCO SOLO DOCKS, PIERS, WAREHOUSES, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES, OR OF ANY PORTION OF THEM, TO PANAMA WOULD REQUIRE THE APPROVAL OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS. BEFORE THE PRESIDENT COULD CONSIDER ANOTHER LEGISLATIVE REQUEST HELPFUL TO PANAMA IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO AWAIT CONGRESSIONAL DECISIONS ON THE LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS HE IS NOW SUBMITTING ON OLD FRANCE FIELD, NEW FRANCE FIELD AND THE LOTTERY. DECISIONS ON THOSE REQUESTS SHOULD INDICATE TO US HOW UNILATERAL ACTIONS BY THE UNITED STATES WITH RESPECT TO THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE MAY AFFECT THE COURSE OF TREATY NEGOTIATIONS.

6. QUOTE: MOREOVER, THE COCO SOLO AREA CONTAINS HOUSING AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES FOR THE LARGEST CONCENTRATION OF U.S. CITIZEN EMPLOYEES ON THE ATLANTIC SIDE OF THE ISTHMUS, AND THE PANANA CANAL COMPANY UTILIZES MOST OF THE WAREHOUSES AND OTHER BUILDINGS IN THE AREA. ALTERNATIVE HOUSING AND FACILITIES ARE NOT AVAILABLE AND REPLACEMENT OF THESE FACILITIES IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CANAL ZONE WOULD INVOLVE COSTS OF A MAGNITUDE WHICH WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO JUSTIFY TO OUR CONGRESS.

7. QUOTE: I WANT YOU TO KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT I SHALL KEEP YOUR SUGGESTION VERY MUCH IN MIND, AND ADVISE YOU PROMPTLY SHOULD IT BECOME PRACTICAL IN THE FUTURE TO CONTEMPLATE ACTION ALONG THE LINES YOU DESIRE. I HAVE ALSO ASKED AMBASSADOR BUNKER TO KEEP YOUR SUGGESTION BEFORE HIM AS TREATY NEGOTIATIONS PROCEED.

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8. QUOTE: WITH MY RESPECTS, GENERAL, AND MY WARM PERSONAL WISHES. BEST REGARDS, HENRY A. KISSINGER. END QUOTE.

9. ORIGINAL LETTER HAS BEEN POUCHED TO EMBASSY.

KISSINGER

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**TAGS:** PFOR, PN, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (TORRIJOS HERRERA, OMAR)
**To:** PANAMA
**Type:** TE
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